



Dingwall Academy

News

Welcome to the April/May edition of Dingwall Academy News. We hope you all had a restful Spring/Easter Break. Inside you'll find a wide range of news and information about the school and wider community. Enjoy!

Dux Award



We are delighted to announce that the 2014 Dux is **Luke Shaw** (left), with the Proxime Accessit medal being presented to **Peter Bell** (right). Both Luke and Peter had an outstanding set of prelim results and are expected to do extremely well in their Higher examinations. Well done!



Prizegiving

The annual school prize giving takes place on **Wednesday 11th June at 7pm** in the Games Hall. The list of pupils receiving prizes has now been displayed at the front of the school. Our guest speaker for the evening will be former Dingwall Academy pupil **Mr William Gray**. Families and friends are all welcome.

SQA Exams Begin

History was made on Tuesday 29th April when S4 Modern Studies pupils became the first to sit the new National 5 examinations. There has been an incredible amount of hard work from teachers and pupils to prepare for these exams and we wish all Dingwall Academy pupils well.

Exam results are due to arrive on Tuesday 5th August 2014. Any pupils who would also like to receive results via text or email have to register online with mysqa.org.uk. Pupils can find further instructions about this in the Exam Booklet issued prior to the exams. Pupils and parents are also reminded that there is no longer a system for appealing except in exceptional circumstances.



APRIL/MAY 2014 EDITION

Dates for your diary:

Monday 19th May
Timetable Change

Wednesday 11th June
Prizegiving 7pm

Monday 16th June
Parent Council Meeting 7pm

25th – 27th June
P7 Primary Visits

Thursday 26th June
P7 Parent information night and
P7 Disco

Thursday 26th June
WWI Belgium Trip Departs
Spain Trip Departs

Friday 27th June
Sports Day

Monday 30th June
Languages: German Trip Departs

30th June – 1st July
Activity Days

Thursday 3rd July
School Closes 12pm

A Professor Visits...



On Monday 10th March, Professor Graham Turner from Heriot Watt School of languages arrived in the school to work with S2, S3 and S4 BSL pupils. His focus was to expand the pupils' signing skills and to challenge them in thinking about how to learn and remember new signs.

He also spoke to S4 about the BSL interpreting course at Heriot Watt; one of

Dingwall Academy's former pupils is now studying on the course.

Professor Turner was impressed by the commitment, interest and skills demonstrated by all the pupils. As a result, he is keen to strengthen and develop these links. Pupils made the following comments about the visit:

'I enjoyed the time with Professor Turner; his teaching was different because he got us all up and doing the sign notation.'

'The professor was really friendly and keen to get us to try sign notation his way; this was difficult at the start but easy by the end. BUT the surprise was when we all managed to beat him at the fingerspelling challenge (Mrs Kinsman had to help him!).'

'I now know what I need to do to get into Heriot Watt to study BSL and interpreting. He is not like a stuffy professor but an interesting person.'

'I had the best time ever with the professor and hope he will come back and do something about the history of BSL.'

NEWS FLASH!



As a result of the commitment and interest shown by the pupils across the BSL classes, Professor Turner has invited pupils to attend the only BSL event at this year's Edinburgh Fringe. This will be during the school holiday and will be organised by Mrs Kinsman. More information will be given prior to the start of the holiday.

Futurechef



Futurechef is a nationwide culinary programme helping young people aged between 12 -16yrs develop their cooking skills.

There are four stages to the competition starting with a school heat followed by a local, then regional heat and then the finals in London with prizes galore!

The School Heat

I decided to go in for the Futurechef competition because I thought it would be a good experience and to push myself in my cooking skills. Futurechef is not just a cooking competition though: it involves budgeting, time

management, organisational skills, and cooking preparation techniques. For the first school heat I cooked Caramelised Onion Turkey and Stilton Tartlet with Onion Ice Cream. I had originally found a recipe online but changed it quite a bit to my own liking. The first heat didn't quite go to plan as I had a few problems with pastry, but I was really happy to have won and be put through to the next heat at Inverness College competing against local schools.

The Local Heat

I decided to cook the same dish for my second round but not the Onion Ice Cream. I replaced that with a Crunchy Apple and Carrot Salad which I thought went a lot better. I think that Inverness College's facilities were really good for the second round. I was worrying quite a lot because we had never been given a chance to see the training kitchen area I would be in, and that I wouldn't be familiar with the cookers, but I was placed in a good spot with everything I needed. It was definitely very different to the school heat and I really enjoyed cooking in an industrial kitchen environment alongside everyone else. It was also nice to see all the other competitors' dishes.

It came as quite a shock winning the second round, but I was really proud to have even got that far in the competition. I received a few certificates, a recipe book and my own set of embroidered chef whites.

The Regional Final

I started to get a bit nervous for the third round because it was quite an important one which would lead to the finals in London. I again decided to cook the same dish for the third round because I was quite comfortable using the ingredients and cooking methods that I had practised before. I had to add a dessert this time, so I also made Chocolate Fondant with Raspberry Ice Cream. I did feel a bit more pressured for this round as people were coming from all over Scotland, and some were quite a bit older than me and were cooking some very complex dishes. Unfortunately, I didn't make it through this round but the other dishes people made looked amazing.

Throughout this whole experience I was given help and advice by a mentor chef at Kinkell House Hotel who really helped a lot towards my success. For anybody who may be considering going into the Futurechef competition next year, I think that it's a great experience even though it may be a little bit nerve racking. You get the chance to create your own dish and meet some really good chefs.

By Rachel Turner S3

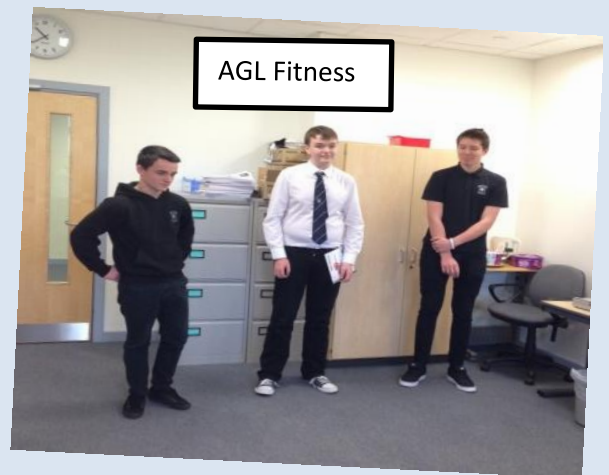


S3 Business Enterprise

The final topic of the S3 Business and Enterprise Course was on Business Planning. It was easily my favourite out of all the course topics, even though they are all great. The reason why it was so great was because my group had to come up with a business idea that could make money. My group came up with the idea that we would run a gym in Inverness called AGL Fitness. We had to go through all the steps required to set up a business like choosing premises, recording radio adverts, producing flyers etc and then at the end of the topic we had to face the Dragons' Den!

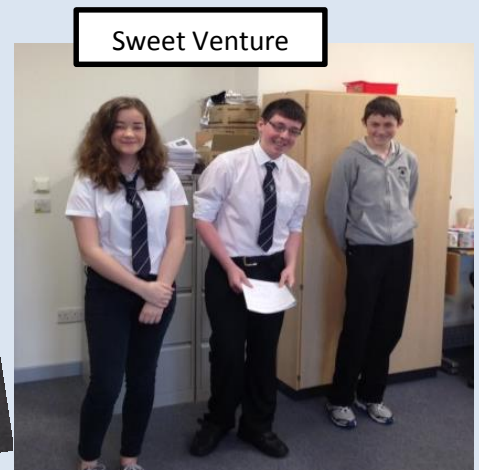


We had to prepare a 3 minute sales pitch to put to the "Dragons" in the The Dragons' Den. The Dragons were Mrs Cormack, Mrs Lowe and Mrs Robertson, but we didn't know who they were until we walked in. Like the TV programme, we had to present our business idea to see if one or more of the dragons would lend us the money that we asked for to help start up the business.



It was a lot of fun, and incredibly nerve-racking, but at the end our company got the loan so we were all very chuffed with all the effort we put into it.

By Lewis Taylor



Getting to know you...

We interviewed our new depute head, Ms Harrison, who started teaching here at Dingwall Academy about four weeks ago on the 22nd of April. She is the head of S5 and S6. We asked her a few questions and got her responses so you could all get to know her a bit better.

What school did you teach at before?

I worked at Alness Academy for 10 years.

What school did you go to when you were younger?

Bankhead Academy, which is on the outskirts of Aberdeen.

What subject do you teach?

I'm an English teacher.

Do you enjoy working at Dingwall?

Very much. Everyone's extremely friendly and there are a lot of exciting things going on.

How is it different from working at Alness?

It's a lot bigger - more than twice the size and it's a nice new building. Dingwall has no bell which was really weird at first but I actually like that now as it's calmer in the corridors.

How long have you been a teacher?

I've been a secondary school teacher for 10 years. Before that I was teaching adults how to speak English in Finland and Japan for about 4 years.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

At first, I didn't! I wanted to travel and one of the best ways to do that was to teach English in other countries, so that's what I did. I grew to love teaching quickly though and just didn't want to do anything else. So I decided that that was what I wanted to do with my life.

What do you like about teaching?

Working with people like you! I love working with young people and I love the subject I teach too.

Is there anything you want to introduce to Dingwall Academy?

YPI (Youth Philanthropy & Initiative). It's a big project where every year the school gets to donate £3,000 to local charities.

Anything else?

I'd just like to say that I'm looking forward to working here and I've really enjoyed these last four weeks!

By Fiona Beverage and Sarah Hickson S3



Did you know...

Ms Harrison ran the London Marathon this year in 4 hours 11 minutes. It was her third marathon and she really wants to break 4 hours. She will have to do another one...

She's also a keen amateur cook and is going to America later this year to teach a Scottish cookery course.

Faves

Favourite band - Dixie Chicks

Favourite food - Nectarines or cheese

Favourite historical figure - Anne Boleyn

Favourite movie - Independence Day

Favourite authors - Nancy Mitford, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Haruki Murakami, Hilary Mantel, Margaret Atwood

Notes & News



Staffing

We welcome Ms W Harrison as Depute Rector for the Upper School. Ms Harrison is looking forward to welcoming the senior pupils back following study leave. We also welcome back Mrs F Gilchrist as Pupil Support Auxiliary and Ms L Buck to the English Department. Congratulations also to Mr R Ferguson who, after spending his probationer year with us, has now been appointed to a permanent Physics Teacher post.

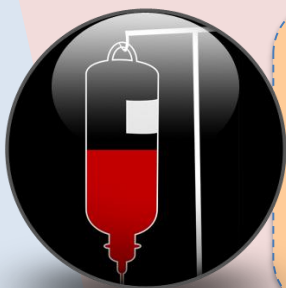
Mrs Mary Eagleson, a member of the Highland Deaf Education Service, based in the deaf base, has taken the opportunity to retire early. Her teaching career started as a biology teacher in the Borders before she moved north with her husband Keith. She joined HDES as a temporary teacher of the deaf 16 years ago.

We wish Mary a long and restful retirement, cycling and going on long strolls hunting for elusive plants, butterflies and insects.



Spring Concert

During the last week of term a packed hall was treated to a wonderful Spring Concert. The Spring Concert provides the opportunity for a number of soloists to showcase their talents and the standard of performance was quite exceptional. Particularly memorable was the number of 6th year pupils performing for the last time. The spring term was particularly busy for both staff and pupils and so we are so fortunate that so many people are prepared to give up their time to put on such an enjoyable evening. Congratulations to all involved.



Blood Donors

S6 pupils appreciated a presentation from the Blood Transfusion Service encouraging pupils to become blood donors. The school has a very proud record of pupils taking part in the blood donor sessions and congratulations to all pupils who gave their first donation at the session in Dingwall at the start of the month.

S6 Pupils

Unfortunately some S6 pupils chose to mark their last week in school by throwing eggs and flour at younger pupils during the school lunchtime. S6 pupils have already apologised to pupils for their behaviour and would also like to apologise to any parents who had to deal with the aftermath. However the year group redeemed themselves on their actual last day taking part in paintballing before dancing the now traditional 'Strip the Willow' in front of the school. S6 pupils then enjoyed a very successful dinner and ceilidh dance at the Legion in Dingwall. Thanks go to the Captains Donna MacKenzie and Frank Fraser for their help in organising the day.

U14 Highland Schools Cup Final

On Tuesday 6th May, the boys travelled to Alness Academy to play against Invergordon Academy. They won 4-2, with goals from **Liam Ross**, **Scott Macdonald**, **Logan Mackenzie** and **Calum Mackinnon**. Man of the match was **Owen Fraser**. Well done, boys!



Senior Girls' Football Success

Congratulations to the Senior Girls football team who have won the league and are in the final of the league cup. The behaviour and attitude of the girls has been tremendous throughout the season and they showed real determination in their last league game to come back from 0 – 1 against Kingussie and win the game after extra time.

Welcome, take a seat...



Bench designed and constructed by Ben Fleming (S6), Callum Russel (S6) and Dylan MacCulloch (S6)
2013-2014

Pupil Achievements

Pupil Achievements



The inaugural Lord Lieutenant's Award ceremony took place in the Strathpeffer Pavilion on Monday 31st March. Dingwall Academy was well represented.

Tom Hoffman was awarded 2nd place in his category, receiving £100 to help him fund his fencing. **Fin Graham** was placed 1st in the same category and received a new mountain bike.

We are certainly proud of you all—well done!

Name	Category
Fin Graham	Achievement in Sport.
Tom Hoffmann	Achievement in Sport.
Adam Chalmers	Helping others.
Cailean Welsh	Helping others.
Aimee Grant	Achievement in Sport.
Douglas Holland	Achievement in Sport.
Susannah Mack	Achievement in the Arts.
Ashleigh M Davison	Helping others.
Ryan Fearne	Achievement in Sport.
Kirstie Will	Helping others.

Dingwall Academy also set the tone for the evening with our very own Ceilidh Band Corona Celtica playing to welcome the guests as they arrived in the hall. This was very well received by all who attended.



I'm late, I'm late...!

Dealing with late pupils



Occasionally, being late is unavoidable, but far too often lessons in Dingwall Academy are disrupted by pupils who are unnecessarily late.

From the 19th of May, the school will make changes to the way in which it deals with pupils arriving late to school and late to classes.

Two late comings in a week, or four in a term, will result in pupils being placed on 'late monitoring'. Any further latecoming will result in the following lengths of detention (after school on Fridays):

- A half hour detention for **one** further latecomings
- A one hour detention for **two** further latecomings
- A one and a half hour detention for a further **three** latecomings

These detentions will involve pupils working with materials designed to help them develop their understanding of time management and, therefore, reduce the likelihood of the problem continuing.

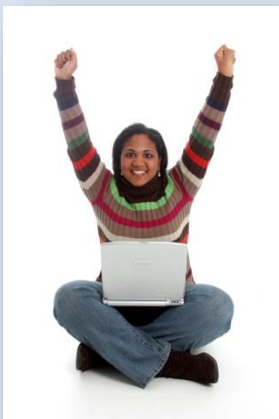
Parents/carers will be informed if pupils reach the monitoring stage and, of course, of any detentions.

The disruption caused by pupils arriving late is unacceptable and unnecessary on most occasions.

Good time management is a life skill which we want to develop in pupils.

We hope we can continue to count on parental support to improve the situation.

Social Subjects—Revision



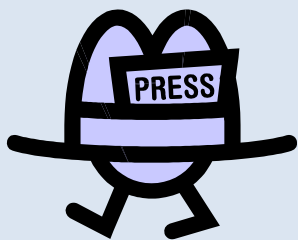
The Social Subjects department have developed a website to provide students with revision materials. It caters for students in S1 up to Advanced Higher in History, Geography and Modern Studies. The website includes revision sheets, useful websites and practice exam questions. There are also alerts for important events and information on trips. Some pages on the website are password protected. Students will be issued with the password in class. The website address is: socialsubjectsda.edublogs.org. You can also find a link to it on the school's website. We hope you find it useful.

Academy and Community Together

Partnerships

Thank you to the Parent Council who helped organise a partnership event in the school on Thursday 24th April. A number of representatives from local businesses and organisations attended and we hope to be able to form partnership agreements with them for next session.

The two longest-serving partners of Dingwall Academy are Auchmore Farm and Fairburn Estate. We recently marked this by presenting both with a commemorative plate. Pictured are Peter Hingston from Fairburn Estate and Stephen and Sheena MacKenzie from Auchmore Farm together with some of the Rural Skills pupils.



Muir Matters

Muir of Ord's village magazine, *Muir Matters*, is looking for an enthusiastic Academy pupil from the Muir of Ord area to write their column, Academy News. The magazine is issued every three months. If anyone is interested in writing for *Muir Matters* please contact Joan, one of the Editorial Team, at muirmatters@muiroford.co.uk.

Duncraig Educational Trust

The Duncraig Education Trust Scheme can offer financial assistance to young Highland people involved in high level sport performance or undertaking specialist courses of study in arts, language and heritage or science and environment.

More information, FAQs and application forms for the Duncraig Trust are found on this link:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/grantsandallowances/trust.htm>

Please note the following:-

- The deadline date for applications this year is **5pm on Friday, 13th June**
- The qualifying age criteria for sports grants has been changed to 14 – 25
- The qualifying age criteria for grants for specialist courses remains at 16 – 25

Umutura Deaf School—Rwanda

Last Monday (22nd April) the S2 BSL class welcomed back Liz Scott Gibson to hear her experiences of visiting Rwanda's only deaf school, which was opened in 2006 and has about 120 deaf children from all over Rwanda and some from the bordering country, Uganda.

The pupils were amazed to see how much food had been bought with their £135. The questions and comments from the pupils showed their genuine interest in the welfare of their long distance peers.

Not only did Liz show photographs and talk about life for many deaf children in Rwanda she also showed the pupils several examples of Rwandan sign language: tea, Rwanda, Uganda, thank you, goodbye.

The pupils were interested to see the photographs showing the school, the classrooms and the local houses. However, it was humbling and amazing to see the photographs showing the truck and the food store with the food bought from the monies raised by the class and the local NDCS branch.

During her talk she explained that there is a problem with water. When it rains, it pours, but there is nowhere for the school to store the water. Then it may not rain for several weeks. The pupils, themselves have decided to try to raise enough money to buy another water tank. (about £150).



Back in the day...



DINGWALL ACADEMY, ROSSSHIRE.



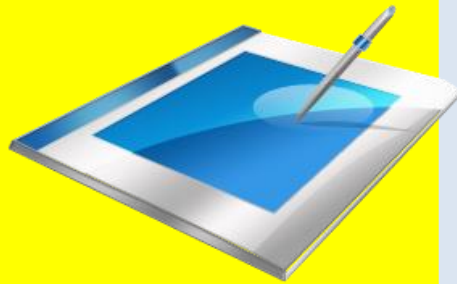
And now a little further back in time: Dingwall Academy staff and pupils, taken just before the outbreak of WW2 and prior to the historic move to their new school on the hill. It was vital that this move took place with great haste as there were fears that the Ministry of Defence would commandeer the new school for military purposes. Thank you once again to Mr G Dolan for the photos.

In the next issue of the *News*...

- Pupil Achievements
- New 'Back in the Day' photos
- And much more!

Something missing?
Correction? Is there a feature
you'd like to see? Get in touch!

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Today

BY BILLY COLLINS

*If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze*

*that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house*

*and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,*

*a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies*

*seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking*

*a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,*

*releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage*

*so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting*

*into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.*



Dingwall Academy

*A school with a sense of community—a school where by
taking collective responsibility, pupils and staff have the
opportunity to achieve extraordinary things.*

Headteacher: Mrs K. Cormack

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION